

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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1. COUNTRY: ARGENTINA (AR), CHILE (CI) 2. REPORT NUMBER: (b)(3):10 USC 42

3. TITLE: (U) MILITARY, POLITICAL- ARGENTINE MILITARY VIEWS ON REFUGEE PROGRAMS AND U.N. PEACE KEEPING FORCES 4. PROJECT NUMBER: N/A

5. DATE OF INFORMATION: 781104-781110 6. DATE OF REPORT: 781116

7. DATE & PLACE OF ACQUISITION: 781104-781110, Buenos Aires 8. REFERENCES: Initiative

9. ASSESSMENT: SOURCE INFO (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424 10. ORIGINATOR: (b)(3):10 USC 424

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14. SOURCE: United Nations Official

(b)(3):10 USC 424

15. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

D YES ☐
R
C NO ☒

16. SUMMARY:

(U) This report relates the observations made by a ranking United Nations official on Argentine military response to the U.N. mandated refugee program. Although the program was not well known to military corps commander as recently as 7806, it now seems to be better recognized. The forthcoming OAS visit by a human rights committee may provide a good assessment of the GOA response. Also included are the U.N. official's views on Argentine military participation in a U.N. peace keeping force should the opportunity arise.

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17. SUBJECT AND AREA CODES: 201 640, 201 710, 201 720, 104 313, 104 104, 300 000, 201 201, ARCT, DL

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20. ENCLOSURES:

1 Enclosure
1. Amembassy Buenos Aires, cable 8869, DTG 071941Z Nov. 78, 2 pgs, 1 cy (c)

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21. This IR contains 3 pages.

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22. DETAILS: 1. ~~(C)~~ On 781104, [] was a dinner guest at a social function also attended by the senior U.N. official for refugee programs in Argentina, Mr. Kevin Lyonette. During the course of the dinner, Mr. Lyonette offered a number of observations based on his tour in Buenos Aires; he is slated to leave in early Dec. 1978 for a new assignment in Geneva, Switzerland.

2. ~~(C)~~ When asked how the GOA applied refugee status for Chileans, he described the program in terms of a UN "guarantee" for persons out of their country of origin and, for political reasons, unable to return to their homelands. Argentina has agreed to honor the U.N. status, but apparently did not communicate effectively to all law enforcement agencies. Mr. Lyonette described a meeting with Brig. Gen. Vaquero, V Corps Commander in Bahia Blanca (3843S-5217W). The General claimed (in June) to have no prior knowledge of the U.N. refugee program. The next day when Mr. Lyonette learned that a Chilean refugee had been detained after a government security operation, he contacted the General and asked for his assistance. The refugee, who had apparently been held only because of his citizenship (along with some other Chileans not in refugee status), was released. Furthermore, when Mr. Lyonette later visited Neuquen, a provincial capital in the V Corps region, the ranking military officer there showed him a message originated by Gen. Vaquero; the message directed full cooperation with the U.N. refugee program.

3. ~~(C)~~ Asked if refugee status could be applied to Argentine citizens still in Argentina who were out of favor with the government; Mr. Lyonette said it was not likely although Chile had accepted these conditions for some of their undesired and the example might be paralleled east of the Andes. He noted that GOA policy in this matter was set by the Interior Ministry and that implementation of refugee status would be dependent on local authority with little chance of all the various government agencies following high level guidance.

4. ~~(C)~~ During a discussion about U.N. peace keeping activity, Mr. Lyonette pointed out that the GOA would be welcome as a supplier of troops in some areas, i.e., Cyprus. He thought less of Argentines serving in Africa, particularly South Africa. At the same time, he opined that Argentine Armed Forces are rather strained in filling both military and government positions now, thus limiting the opportunity to send personnel abroad. He also agreed with [] on the dilemma the GOA would find itself in, should a claim of intervention be raised while the Argentines were supplying "peace keepers." It was also noted that the Argentine Army has a rather limited exposure to international activity in comparison to the other services. This was reinforced in Mr. Lyonette's experience when he spent 3 days at sea aboard the Argentine aircraft carrier "25 de Mayo." He was surprised to find himself the only foreigner aboard but had a good chance

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to meet a number of senior naval officers and exchange ideas with them. Among that group, he named RADM Carpintero as most erudite. Currently serving as Commander of the Naval Operational Air Units, RADM Carpintero had previously been national press secretary.

COMMENT: ~~(C)~~ Although the refugee program has not provided a panacea, it is apparently working for Chileans in Argentina. There are recent indications (see encl. 1) that aspects of the program, i.e., interviews by third countries, may be afforded as a precursor to resettlement for some Argentines. The problem of local autonomy by GOA agencies and poor internal communication will certainly be a topic of review by OAS HR observers. If more officials follow the example set by Gen. Vaquero, a possibility of hope exists.

B. ~~(C)~~ According to Mr. Lyonette, no training facility currently exists for U.S. peace keeping forces. The prospects of helping Argentina learn the merits of responsible membership in the international community may make it worthwhile to encourage their participation in an observer role with a U.S. peace keeping force. This IR has been coordinated with the American Embassy.

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TELEGRAM

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FROM
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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(b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424

EO 11652: ~~CDS~~
 TAGS: SHUM, AR, SREF, CVIS
 SUBJECT: GOA TO PERMIT DETAINEE APPLICANTS FOR RIGHT OF OPTION
 PROGRAM TO BE INTERVIEWED

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY

 INFO: AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
 AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
 USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 8869

FOR INS/CO

REF: Buenos Aires 8091

1. Foreign Office Working Group for Human Rights (FOWG) official informed Embassy political officer on Monday, November 6, that the GOA has decided to allow US and Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) officials to interview Poder Ejecutivo Nacional (PEN) prisoners applying for the right of option to leave Argentina. The FOWG official stated that Army Commander-in-Chief Viola has given his personal "ok" to the proposal. Ministry of Interior and Foreign Ministry officials will meet on Tuesday, November 7 to finalize details and procedures.
2. Our source said that the Ministry of Interior is

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CLEARANCES:

CONS:BJBlood

DCM:MChaplin

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working out a jail-by-jail prisoner access list. Ministry functionaries are checking the 200 names submitted by the FRG Embassy and the 250 names submitted by the US Embassy on October 16, 1978 and deciding which prisoners will be allowed to be visited. However, FOWG source emphasized that the granting of permission for a PEN detainee to be interviewed does not in any way indicate that the Argentine government will agree to that person's leaving Argentina under the right of option program even if a ~~receiving~~ foreign country agrees to receive him.

4. BEGIN COMMENT. We are pleased with yet another confirmation that permission to visit right of option applicants is on the tracks. This is good news. However, this information should/^{continue}~~waiting~~ to be held closely until we have been granted specific permission to make the jail visits. We will be following up on this issue with Ministry of Interior Assistant Secretary for Internal Security Col. (Retired) San Roman, on noon Thursday November 9 and hope that we may have more concrete results to report after that meeting. END COMMENT.

CASTRO *KAL*